

God's country

I wanted to answer Patrick Webb's review of the book, "Inventing a Christian America: The myth of the Religious Founding," by law professor Steven K. Green ("Oregon law professor debunks 'myth' of religious founding," *The Daily Astorian*, Sept. 25).

This book promulgates the proposal that America's religiously inspired founding was a "myth." The truth is quite the opposite. It appears that our history is almost lost in classrooms in America, and particularly in those of higher learning.

In the first century of our nation's history, the university was the guardian and the preserver of faith in God. Presently, the university has gone way beyond being ethically neutral and agnostic. Abraham Lincoln proclaimed in 1863, "We have forgotten God. We have forgotten the gracious hand which preserved us in peace and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us." If this was true then, it certainly is truer now. Our nation has given birth to a new religion called secularism. A view of life without God, or that he even had anything to do with the picture in the first place.

Seriously overlooked is George Washington's acknowledgment of heaven in the War of Independence: "The success which has hitherto attended our united efforts, we owe to the gracious interpositions of heaven, and to that interposition let us gratefully ascribe the praise of victory and the blessings of peace."

Also overlooked is Benjamin Franklin's great speech. "I have lived, sir, a long time, and the longer I live the more convincing proofs I see of this truth: that God governs in the affairs of man. And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without his notice, is it probable that an empire can rise without his aid?" Franklin went on to recommend the Constitutional Convention begin every morning with a prayer by a clergy "imploping the assistance of heaven and its blessings" on their assembly.

Also present at the Constitution Convention was Charles Pinckney, who commented, "Nothing less than the superintending hand of Providence, that so miraculously carried us through the war (in my humble opinion) could have brought it about so complete, upon the whole."

It is so unfortunate that intellectual trends denounce religion and God in the founding of our great country. It is not our history.

RONALD WALL
Astoria

Vote yes for schools

I would urge every voter to say yes to this continuing tax levy for our children to have a fighting chance of receiving a decent education. This is not a new tax, but simply renewing what we have already committed to.

That's \$52 per year on a \$100,000 house. It's one tank of gas. It's a dinner out. Two large pizzas. It is a birthday present. It is two weeks of your cable bill. It's one shoe. It's a Mother's Day bouquet. A bag of groceries. If you have no children in school it's charitable giving.

Our children are worth at least that.

BILL LUTZ
Seaside

Part-time voters

As a taxpayer in both Washington and Clatsop counties, I wish to clear up a misconception about voting rights in the city of Seaside. If you own a home in two locations, you are allowed only one residence of record to vote in the state of Oregon.

All local elections, such as school levies or bond issues for libraries, police and fire are only voted upon by full-time residents. Though I spend half the week in Portland and half in Seaside, I am not allowed to vote in Seaside elections.

On the Oregon Public Broadcasting documentary "Unprepared," about earthquakes and tsunami alerts and preparedness, the interviewer of School Superintendent Doug Dougherty stated that the main reason the school levy did not pass was because vacation

Owners need to be in control of their pets

My dog, who has all of her shots, was attacked by a pit bull while she was on a leash. The pit was unleashed and owned by some homeless people, who also owned another pit bull. After the attack, the owner of the pit bull — that put seven puncture holes in my Pomeranian — started beating his dog in the head and biting its neck.

They had no shot record on their dogs. But by gosh, I had to show my paperwork on my dog. The officer who was in charge said, "What can I do about them, they're homeless?" They can't pay for vet bills, so I had to pay \$186 by myself. If I didn't have my papers on my dog, the officer was going

to quarantine my dog. It was like it was my fault my dog got bitten.

I guess homeless people can afford dogs and not abide by the rules, especially in Warrenton, as this happened two other times to other dogs in the area. It's called a dog and dog problem.

In the long run, my dog was quarantined to my apartment for 10 days, and their dog was taken to the pound, where it will receive shots, neutering, training and free X-rays to see if it had injuries from the beatings, and released back to the homeless people.

If these are homeless people, how can they afford to feed these dogs? They should all be checked to see if

they have their dogs spayed or neutered, and have their shots, just like we have to.

The officer also treated the ones who were trying to help me and my dog really rudely. I feel he could have handled it with a little more compassion to me, since my dog didn't do anything wrong.

I would like to thank those who did try to help me, they were my heroes that day. Such a traumatic incident should never have happened. Homeless or not, people have to be in control of their pets at all times.

ALICE WILSON
Astoria

home owners and rental owners did not want their taxes to go up. This was information given to the interviewer by Dougherty.

Given the fact that nonresidents (but taxpayers, nonetheless) are not allowed to vote, this is a misstatement at best. Not only is it untrue, it stimulates the theory and rumors that vacation owners do not take pride in their community. I feel this is a grave injustice to those of us who do support our neighbors, our kids, our schools, our parks, our libraries, our rivers, our beaches and oceans. This is also a grave disservice to those of us who have invested time and money into a community we love.

In addition, the city of Seaside was given a federal grant to supply residents with tsunami barrels. These barrels, the size of an oil barrel, were stocked with food products and delivered by citizens in the community. I have one of these.

The city of Seaside also received emergency radios for residents. These were also distributed and delivered by citizens in the community. I also have one of these. This information was either not given to the interviewer, or somehow was chosen to be irrelevant.

It always comes down to the few people who work hard to help the community. The follow-up on both the barrels and the radios by the city of Seaside was basically nonexistent. The city officials have really dropped the ball in a lot of ways, but it wasn't because the vacation home owners didn't vote to support school funding.

I would ask that this be clarified by both the *Seaside Signal* and *The Daily Astorian*. I have also written to PBS in regard to the documentary on OPB. I am asking that you do this, as well as clarifying it with Doug Dougherty. A man of his responsibilities should know better. I look forward to a response.

MERILEE LAURENS
Seaside/Portland

Missing the mark

Educators are missing the mark. Children cannot be bullied if they have poise and self-confidence, which balances a child's well-being and improves the chance that the child won't have to act out to get attention, i.e. dressing provocatively, participating in hate groups, etc., the list goes on and on.

Bullying has been around for decades; bullies won't continue to attack a child emotionally if the bully doesn't get a reaction to their criticism.

TAMMIE L MURRAY
Seaside

Avoiding race event

I started a tradition to escape town when Hood to Coast arrives. I have been abused by those folks every year. I am shocked by how rude and how arrogant they are.

I welcome busy, exhausting events such as Volleyball Weekend, Fourth of July, etc. But Hood to Coast causes hectic masses invading quaint dining rooms and other businesses, and expect the room to be rearranged, fast service, a confusing division of their bill, and then they treat employees poorly and tip inadequately, especially when we have to put up with their overwhelming arrogance.

I made a proposal that I will work every holiday, and all other Seaside events — except Hood to Coast. That was my only such scheduling plea

in my three years with my current employer. It brought me so much joy not to be in Seaside this last Hood to Coast.

All and all, Hood to Coast is less profitable for the restaurant employees than other big events or holidays, or even just a normal summer weekend, because they make big reservations, and most do not show, or arrive late with a fraction of their party, making our dining room a complete hectic romper room. Less money by far, and way more aggravation.

Additionally, why do they get to bring their own vendors? If local eateries do not get their business during years with good weather, and they have a food court, then at least local businesses who wish to partake in the vendor's tents should get a chance to get their business. But they bring their own Portland and Lake Oswego vendors.

I will not endure it anymore. Like many others, I will be out of town whenever they are here. But it is unfortunate that they behave the way they do, causing me to take a week-end off work, and spend money to retreat elsewhere.

DAVID MUSCHAMP
Seaside

No to jokes

Moving Hood to Coast to Astoria — is that a joke

("Race to Astoria," *The Daily Astorian*, Oct. 9)? This event was a nightmare when I lived in Seaside over 24 years ago, and I couldn't wish anything worse on Astoria.

We don't need it. Keep our events local events. I doubt the Maritime Museum wants to give up their parking lot, either. The reason Seaside businesses want it gone is obvious, so why would our downtown benefit? Keep our events local and relevant.

Anyone who would want Hood To Coast through their town probably also believes liquefied natural gas (LNG) at the mouth of the Columbia River would help bring good jobs to the North Coast. Another joke.

My vote is no on both counts — no joke.

LAREE JOHNSON
Astoria

Be nice

I think we all agree that killing a non-threatening person for their religious beliefs is wrong. It's too late to reason with the Roseburg shooter about that.

A few days ago in Astoria I saw a slogan on the spare tire cover of an SUV that read in part "neuter all your liberals."

I think we all agree that it's wrong to do such a thing to a fellow human because of their political beliefs. And I hope

that a friend or neighbor who might have some influence could reason with the owner of the SUV about that slogan.

It's not too late.

DAVID AMBROSE
Astoria

Redundant

We have owned our home in Gearhart for 10 years. Prior to our purchase, it was a long term rental. It is rented only 95-97 days per year, or about 26 percent of the time. Gearhart has been a rental vacation destination for decades. If rentals had never been permitted then, what would Gearhart be today?

Gearhart hosts overly large crowds over the Fourth of July holiday. Has the city taken any steps to advise homeowners that guests must adhere to city ordinances, and that violation of these ordinances regarding garbage, noise and parking, etc. will be fully enforced? The city goes to great lengths to issue warnings about the illegal use of fireworks, and the consequences for doing so. Why don't they do the same regarding other issues? Is it not the city's responsibility to enforce all existing ordinances, not just the use of fireworks?

Now the city wants to add to the plethora of ordinances by regulating, restricting and

taxing rental homes. Really? Will more regulations suddenly eradicate Fourth of July behavior? Will it prevent an overstuffed garbage can from tipping over? Are we dealing with a chronic problem, or an occasional nuisance? How will redundant ordinances be enforced if the current ordinances, dealing with many of the same issues, are not currently enforced?

I ask the Gearhart City Council to take the time to think and thoroughly study the impact of restricting short term rentals. Then think again. Think about the effect on local businesses, property values for all homeowners, and especially the economic impact Gearhart will suffer by virtually discouraging Oregonians who have enjoyed our beloved vacation spot for so many years to stay away.

JIM WHITTEMORE
Gearhart

Thank you

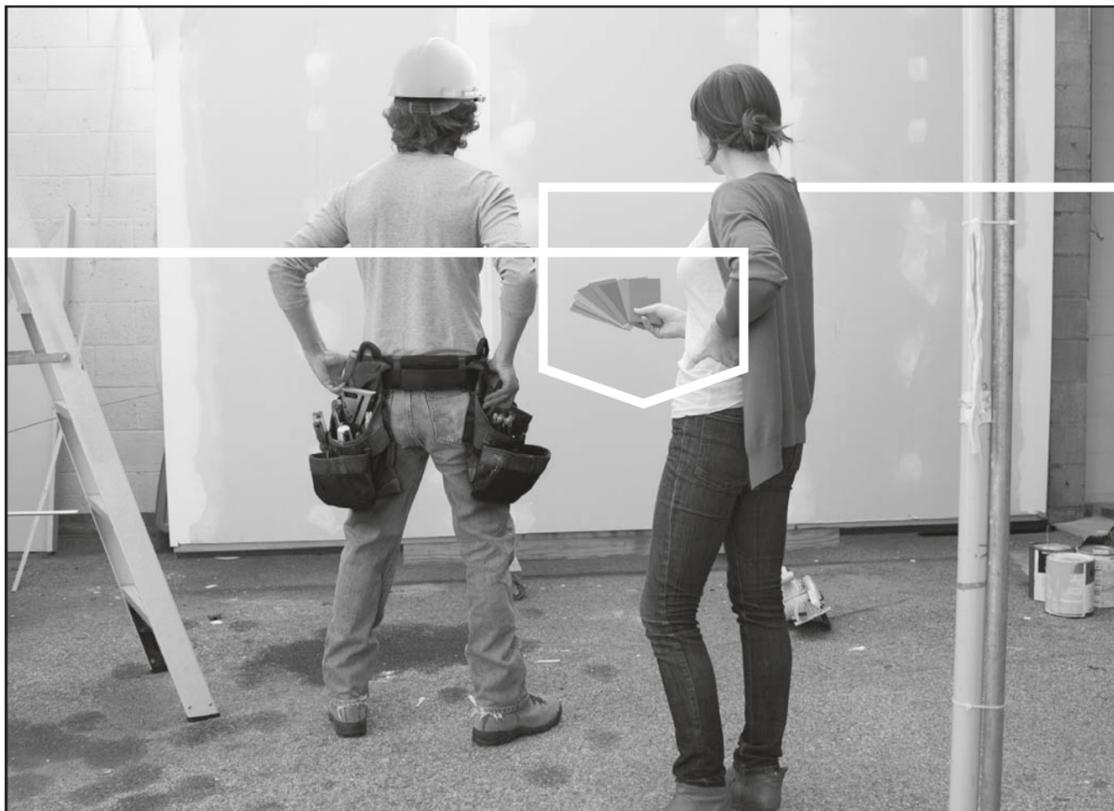
On Oct. 2 our family lost a great man when Kenny Green passed away at the age of 82. The outpouring of love and support for our family has been nothing short of amazing. We would like to say thank you.

Thank you to everyone who came to the service or reception, and to those who were with us in thought or sent a card. Many thanks to everyone who helped plan and organize the reception, and to all who provided help or food for the reception or the home.

Thank you to the Knapapa High School football team for the beautiful tribute and dedication of the homecoming game. And we can't say enough to all of our friends and family who have been there for us in this difficult time.

This community is amazing, and you have all provided comfort in our time of loss. While words seem not nearly enough, our hearts are filled with love and gratitude for you all. Thank you.

TANNY GREEN AND
FAMILY
Astoria



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